

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 53042-37067

Title: SITE SAFETY

Operation/Exercise Name: SEA ANGEL

Observed: 29 May 1991

Originator: HMLA-169

POC: LTCOL ROGERS    Commercial: (619)725-3900    DSN: 3653900

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Inadequate course rules for operating at Chittagong, Bangladesh during Operation Sea Angel created safety hazards. No formal site survey was completed prior to the commencement of flight operations.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

The course rules for entry into Chittagong airfield during Operation Sea Angel were inadequate. U.S. Army and Marine Corps helicopters were forced to operate in close proximity through three separate controlling agencies on three different frequencies. The lack of designated loading and parking zones added to the confusion for pilots. In addition, the location of the refueling point next to the loading zone increased the likelihood of an accident occurring.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

Specific guidance on course rules and a single controlling agency would have alleviated potential air traffic conflicts.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

In future operations, course rules should be formulated and briefed to all aircrews. These course rules should incorporate designated landing, parking and loading areas. Prior planning should include using a site survey team to mark zones with paint or reflective tape and identify probable hazards. A single controlling agency would also help aircrews in maintaining situational awareness.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

Extremely good crew coordination was a necessity when operating at the primary Operation Sea Angel airfield. Good judgment was required to safely get into, taxi and land in the Chittagong parking areas.